

Tremaine Wright: ... and I just want to say it is great to be here in Buffalo with everyone. I doubt this visit is going to be quite long enough, because as I recently read, Buffalo is designated as one of the top 7 cities in the nation to visit, so I look forward to more visits here. Recognizing that we have all the Board members present today and are participating either here in the physical or remotely, I'm pleased to call to order another meeting of the Cannabis Control Board. And I welcome you all who are participating via real time live stream. So, this meeting will be recorded, and the recording and transcript will be available to the public on the Office of Cannabis Management's website [www.cannabis.ny.gov](http://www.cannabis.ny.gov). Just a reminder, information on all of the Cannabis Control Board Meetings is available in a designated section of the website. Today's agenda, includes several items that we're excited to tackle and these include welcoming brief remarks, then we will move onto a review and approval of the meeting minutes from the Cannabis Control Board Meeting held on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, consideration of Conditional Adult Use Dispensary regulations, consideration of Conditional Adult Use retail dispensary applications and application window, consideration of the Adult Use Conditional Cultivator Licenses, consideration of Medical Cannabis Program regulations, a report from the Office of Cannabis Management's Executive Director, and then we'll adjourn.

I wanted to begin today with giving you a brief update on the Seeding Opportunity Initiative. We currently have 203 approved Adult Use Conditional Cultivator licensees. They are cultivating the first regulated Adult Use Cannabis in New York State and today an additional 20 applicants for Conditional Cultivator licenses will be considered. A few weeks ago, we announced that Social Equity Impact Ventures, LLC, a premier black led investment team managed by Financial leadership Dan Shank, former City Comptroller William Thompson, and MBA hall of famer Chris Webber was selected as the fund manager for the \$200 million Social Equity Cannabis Investment Program. They are already hard at work to ensure that this fund will be ready to support our first Conditional Retail Dispensary licensees. And as I have already mentioned, today we will discuss and review the proposed Conditional Adult Use Retail Dispensary License Regulations and applications. As many of you were with us at our last meeting, you know the Board voted to open the Conditional Adult Use Processor Application window on June 28<sup>th</sup>. The application window closes on August 31<sup>st</sup>. These Conditional Processing Licensees are necessary to complete the processing, packaging and distribution of products to the retail dispensaries that are planned to come online through our Seeding Opportunity Initiative by way of the Conditional Adult Use Retail Dispensary licenses. With the consideration of the Conditional Retail Dispensary applications today, we are poised to have the supply chain connected from our farmers currently growing, to processors, to retail. So, while we are all really excited about the Seeding Opportunity Initiative coming together to allow the first roll out of Adult Use Cannabis in New York State, this is just one part of the broader New York State Cannabis market we are developing. We will have many more license opportunities to discuss in the future, as well as supports for those seeking jobs in the industry. At this time, and before we begin the first order of business on the agenda, I would like to read a brief statement on the Open Meetings Law. As stated at every Board Meeting, the Cannabis Control Board is subject to the Open Meetings Law to ensure the greatest levels of transparency and public participation in the affairs of government. Due to the ongoing pandemic, we have requested that members of the public join us via video conference, which we will continue to

offer to keep the public and members of this body safe. Pursuant to chapter 56 of the laws of 2022, enacted on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022, and pursuant to the Executive Order 11.7 board members may continue to fully participate in meetings via video conference from locations that are not open to the public provided that the public has the ability to view or listen to such proceedings, and the meetings are recorded and later transcribed. The public was provided with information on how to access this meeting with the public meeting notice distributed to members of the press and posted on the OCM website. A recording of this meeting, together with the transcript, will also be available on the OCM website. Previous recordings, meeting minutes, and transcripts are archived on the OCM website and available by clicking on the designated tab entitled Board Meetings. Let us now shift our attention to first order of business on our agenda, the review and approval of the meeting minutes from the June 23<sup>rd</sup> Cannabis Control Board Meeting. May I please have a motion to approve the June 23<sup>rd</sup> Board meeting minutes?

Male: So moved.

Tremaine Wright: I have a first, may I have a second?

Jessica Garcia: Second.

Tremaine Wright: Thank you. Is there any discussion by any board members? Hearing none, I'll call for a vote. All in favor?

All: Aye.

Tremaine Wright: None opposed. So the motion to approve the June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 board meeting minutes carries.

Concerning the next order of business, may I please have a motion to consider and approve resolution No. 2022-20 a Resolution directing the Office of Cannabis Management to follow certain proposed Conditional Adult Use Retail Dispensary Regulations?

Reuben McDaniel: Madam Chair, prior to taking this vote, I'm going to mute my phone and stop the video while you all discuss these two next items.

Tremaine Wright: Thank you, very much. So, member McDaniel has turned off his screen. At this time I would like to ask, may I have a motion to consider the resolution before us?

Jen Metzger: I'll make that motion.

Tremaine Wright: May I ask for a second?

Jessica Garcia: I'll second.

Tremaine Wright: Thank you. And at this time, before we begin our conversation, I would like to ask our OCM Senior Policy Director, Chief of Staff is he going to join us? Okay. Chief of

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Staff Axel Bernabe to provide a brief overview of the Conditional Adult Use Retail Dispensary Regulations.

Axel Bernabe: Thank you Madam Chair. It's a pleasure to be here presenting this to the Board today. The Conditional Adult Use Retail Dispensary Regulations or as we call them the CARD regulations that are being advanced for your approval today are really the cornerstone of the Office's Seeding Opportunity Initiative and it's truly exciting to see that initiative finally take shape. This initiative that combines the work that we've been doing with our conditional farmers and processors that you mentioned just a moment ago in your opening, as well as the \$200 million Social Equity Fund, is really a first in the nation. New York is putting Social Equity in small farmers at the heart of its cannabis industry, as you know well, and this really drives that to its logical extension in completing the supply chain by having retailers that can now sell the products that are being grown right now as we speak throughout the State of New York. The licenses for the CARD applicants will be awarded to individuals who meet two baseline eligibility requirements; first, they must have a cannabis related offense that occurred prior to the passage of the Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act that was on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021, or they had a parent, a guardian, a child, or a spouse, or a dependent with a cannabis offense that also occurred pre the passage of the law in March. And then the second criteria is that they have experienced owning and operating a qualifying business. Of course, as we've explained in the past when we presented these regulations to you in March, the idea is that we were going to drive the first small cohort of retail dispensaries through social equity entrepreneurs and build on those small business experienced individuals in launching this industry here in New York. The regulations that we're asking you to approve today provide specifics that set out the parameters for the application which Chris will address shortly, and we are also asking you to approve today so that we can move forward with the application and selection process. The regulations themselves that we're asking you to vote on are being brought to you following the 60-day public comment period, and our review and assessment of those comments. During the public comment period, we received more than 600 distinct comments, and we reviewed each and everyone of them and we put out our APC which sets out our response to all of those comments. First, and foremost we're extremely thankful to the members of the public including local governments, non-for-profits, labor unions, faith-based institutions, elected officials, as well as potential applicants for providing their insight and opinions on these matters. And, we have taken a lot of the comments, very good comments and we've incorporated them into the process that we have building out the broader regulations. Overall, the commenters expressed excitement for the regulations for the launch of our first Adult Use Dispensaries here in New York and supported the inclusion of justice involved individuals as the first individuals to have an opportunity to win a retail license. I think that was very well received. The commentators also expressed support for aspects of the proposed regulations which they believed would maximize undoing the past harms that were caused by the enforcements of cannabis prohibition over the last 30-years in particular. Importantly, a lot of the comments we received related to some of the broader social and economic equity plan goals that the Cannabis Law asks the OCM to implement, and those are being incorporated, but they are not part of this Seeding Opportunity Initiative which puts CARD in a separate social equity program that is the subject of the regulations that we're talking about today. Those comments are being taken in by our social equity team and our licensing team, and our reg drafting team, and are being incorporated so that

when we come up with our regulations governing the rest of the licenses, and as you said, the majority of the licenses that will be approved by the OCM and the Board, they will be incorporated and included. I would like to also thank the team at the OCM that has put in countless hours to operationalize these CARD applications. Licensing is an extremely complicated process and it takes a lot of really dedicated folks to make sure it gets properly incorporated and advances the goals of the regulations. It's been a truly incredible feat and I really want to tip my hat at everyone on the team for the work they've done. So, again, we are thankful for the feedback. All of it was considered before these final regulations were being brought to the Board today for ultimate approval. And in the coming days we will be posting the assessment for public comment which will be available for viewing on the Office's website, that will be next week, and we will be posting some additional information including FAQ's and other documents that will help individuals in filling out the application that we'll be addressing later in this meeting. I'm happy to answer any question you may have, and thank you again, for considering our proposals.

Tremaine Wright: Thank you. However, before we open it up to questions from the Board members, I just want to ask our Executive Director if he would like to add any additional comments to that?

Chris Alexander: Absolutely, I want to echo, of course, the thanks and the gratitude to both the staff for the incredible work that's been done in driving this process, and to the Board for leading in a way that no body has tried to do so before. We will talk more about the application as the Board reviews that application. But did want to highlight, of course, once again before the Board considers advancing these regulations the final criteria for eligibility; that someone has experienced a cannabis conviction prior to the MRTA and that they have experience owning and operating a business. We've been going around the state talking about eligibilities criteria and just wanted to take the time as the Board considers it to hammer that home and we're excited for a more further discussion from the Board.

Tremaine Wright: Thank you for those comments. I would like to ask, are there any questions or comments from any of the Board members? Jen.

Jen Metzger: A quick comment. Thank you, Axel and Chris, for that overview. I just wanted to mention, I also wanted to echo my gratitude to the public for the incredibly helpful and insightful comments that you contributed. There were a number of comments that were really seeking clarification about the regulations and about the program more broadly. And I just wanted to assure folks that staff is working, developing an FAQ, it is going to be a living document, but those clarifications are coming both in the FAQ and also in guidance. So, thank you very much.

Tremaine Wright: Thank you. I would like to ask one question. Axel you used the term justice involved individual, that is a term that does not appear in the MRTA, can you please clarify how you're introducing it here and what that means. What's the definition of that?

Axel Bernabe: Yes, absolutely. So, I think Chris touched on it and we mentioned it quickly and I think the wire frames the application itself goes into significant detail about the kind of

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convictions that would qualify. So, first and foremost as Chris said, it has to be a conviction that occurred before the passage of the bill, it has to be a marijuana related conviction. So, it has to be a 221 offense mainly that relates to the possession or sale of marijuana at the time. But also, recognizing that these are marijuana related offense, you will notice that if you were arrested for a marijuana related offense but then convicted for a lesser charge, that will be recognized as well as a justice involved qualifying offense. So, it is worth taking some time to look at that application material and the application form itself and the FAQ's. We will be releasing significant amount of information around this application in order to clarify so folks really have a very good idea of what and how they are applying. The application isn't going to go live today, it's going to be next month at some point where we will likely announce the actual opening, so people will have some time to look to look at the specifics and educate themselves on what they need and the documentation that they need to actually substantiate and prove those convictions. So, thank you for that question, Madam Chair.

Tremaine Wright: Any other questions or comments? If there aren't any other questions or comments related to this resolution before us, I'm going to call for a vote. Ms. Metzger?

Jen Metzger: Aye.

Tremaine Wright: Miss Garcia?

Jessica Garcia: Aye.

Tremaine Wright: Mr. Perry?

Adam Perry: Aye.

Tremaine Wright: And I vote in favor as well. And Mr. McDaniel has recused himself. So, seeing this resolution passes, and now that we have just approved the CARD regulations, and this has been a big lift for us. Thank you very much. We are going to get ready to move onto our next motion and resolution 2022-21. However, I do want to acknowledge that we've been joined by our Assembly Majority Leader, Assembly Member Crystal Peoples-Stokes, thank you very much. She has been leading the charge for decriminalization and legalization of cannabis in New York State. So, we are very humbled to be in your hometown and to have you be a part of this meeting with us, especially as we roll out this Seeding Opportunity Initiative. But that brings us to the next resolution before us everyone. Resolution No. 2022-21, a resolution approving a certain application form for Conditional Adult Use Retail Dispensary license and ordering that a new application period for Conditional Adult Use Retail Dispensary license open and close on such dates as established by the Office. May I have a motion to consider the resolution?

Adam Perry: So moved.

Tremaine Wright: May I have a second?

Jessica Garcia: Second.

Tremaine Wright: Thank you. And at this time, I would like to ask our Executive Director Chris Alexander to provide a brief overview of the Conditional Retail Dispensary license application process.

Chris Alexander: Thank you, Madam Chair. The Board has just approved the regulations for the Conditional Adult Use Retail Dispensary license setting the parameters for the application that is now before you. The application requires applicants to submit materials proving a qualifying marijuana related conviction, and the residence of the justice involved individual at the time, details and documentation related to the applicant's qualifying business or nonprofit including the nature of the business and associated tax documents, ownership information of the applicant including financial disclosures, what we're calling true parties of interest, and other basic applicant information to assist the Office in it's review. The resolution also creates a process to open the CARD application window when the application system is finalized with our IT office. It requires the office to post on the website at least 14 days prior to the application being open. The opening date notifying potential applicants, and the public about this opportunity. I will discuss it more later in the meeting, but we will be and have been all over the state making sure potential applicants are aware of the opportunity and the materials that they will need to apply so that they are ready to go when the application window opens, which we expect to happen later this summer. Thank you, Madam chair, and I will now ask Chief Equity Officer Damian Fagon to also say a couple of words.

Damian Fagon: Thank you, Chris. I am very proud to be here today to see the CARD program advanced. This is a landmark equity initiative, and it pushes the envelop of what government can accomplish with cannabis. All those set-in motion before my start here, the CARD program is in alignment with the goals of the social and economic equity team at OCM. It is an ambitious start to the important work to come and my team and I look forward to ensuring it's success. One essentially feature of equitable cannabis industry is accessibility. CARD applicants will be pleased to find here an application that is fully online, straightforward, and not overly burdensome. No CARD eligible New Yorker should feel to hire expensive attorney's or consultants in order to take advantage of this opportunity. In the coming weeks, this agency will work with our partners across the state to ensure applicants have readily available support services to complete their applications. Thank you, I will turn it back over to Chris.

Chris Alexander: Thank you Damian. And I just want to add again, the amount of work that's gone into this in development of this applications, the consideration of prioritizing not only the success of our entrepreneurs but the size of the industry that we're building. This is an incredibly important application and incredibly important work and I'm just honored to be here. So, I wanted to turn it back to you Madam Chair.

Tremaine Wright: Thank you very much. Are there any comments or questions from the Board members? I'm sorry Jen.

Jen Metzger: I only I just want to thank staff for all of their hard work on putting all of this together. It's an extraordinary amount of work, so thank you.

Tremaine Wright: Thank you. And I also want to applaud our staff for creating an application that is accessible, that is going to allow the average New Yorkers to complete it independently, but more importantly also thinking through the process and understanding that somebody and someone that's going to be an applicant will also need assistance, and that we're working to connect with all of our state partners across the state to provide that assistance to applicants or potential applicants. I think that is going to be a really important part of the process, so I do want to say thank you very much for that and we look forward to seeing that information and rolling it out to the community because I think that's going to answer a lot of questions and set a lot of people at ease in the process. So, if there aren't any other questions, at this time I am going to call for a vote. Ms. Metzger?

Jen Metzger: Aye.

Tremaine Wright: Miss Garcia?

Jessica Garcia: Aye.

Tremaine Wright: Mr. Perry?

Adam Perry: Aye.

Tremaine Wright: And I vote in favor as well. So, the motion to approve resolution No. 2022-21 resolution approving a certain application form for Conditional Adult Use Retail Dispensary License and ordering that a new application period for Conditional Adult Use Retail Dispensary License open and close on such dates as established by the Office, carries. That is definitely are excited about that. I'm going to say that that has been a little bit of a, this is a tremendous drive in the right direction. We are definitely rolling out equity, we're leading with equity here in this state. So, I do want us to keep that momentum going and I don't want to slow up down here, but I want us to at this time, I'm asking for a motion to please consider and approve resolution No. 2022 the resolution issuing starting additional Adult Use Cultivator Licenses, also a part of our Seeding Opportunity Program. May I have the motion to consider the resolution?

Jen Metzger: I'll make that motion.

Tremaine Wright: May I have a second?

Jessica Garcia: Second.

Tremaine Wright: Properly moved and seconded. I would like to ask Mr. Alexander could you please provide an overview of these applications?

Chris Alexander: Absolutely, thank you, Madam Chair and members of the Board. We have in front of you 20 additional Conditional Cultivator applications which will bring us up to the number of 223 approved Conditional Cultivators in the state. These again, for a reminder to the public are small farmers who have really already started to lay the foundation of New York's Cannabis Program as the frontend of the Seeding Opportunity Initiative that will supply the products that will line dispensaries operated by equity entrepreneurs. I am so pleased with the work that's already been done to advance this program. This is a unique approach. I'm really thankful that small farmers have had this opportunity to participate in this meaningful way. I am here to answer any other additional questions that Board members may have.

Tremaine Wright: Are there any additional questions related to this resolution? Comments, questions from the Board members? Okay, well the hearing none, I will call for a vote. Ms. Metzger?

Jen Metzger: Aye.

Tremaine Wright: Miss Garcia?

Jessica Garcia: Aye.

Tremaine Wright: Mr. McDaniel?

Reuben McDaniel: Aye.

Tremaine Wright: Mr. Perry?

Adam Perry: Aye.

Tremaine Wright: And I vote in favor as well. So, the motion to approve resolution No. 2022 I'm sorry No. 2022-22 resolution issuing certain Conditional Adult Use Cultivator Licenses carries. Now we have official 203 is that the number?

Chris Alexander: 23

Tremaine Wright: I'm sorry, 223 farmers in our state growing for the Adult Use program. So, I'm very excited. This kind of rounds out the loop on our Seeding Opportunity Initiative here in this state. So, well done, thank you very much, everyone.

The next order of business before us is consideration of proposed Medical Cannabis Program regulations. May I please have a motion to consider and approve resolution No. 2022-23 for Medical Cannabis Program regulations?

Jessica Garcia: So moved.

Male: Second.

Tremaine Wright: Properly moved and seconded. And now, if I may, I'd like to ask Nicole Quackenbush our Director of Health and Safety to please provide some additional comments related to these regulations.

Nicole Quackenbush: Thank you, Madam Chair and hello everyone. The proposed Medical Cannabis Regulations were approved by the Board back in February to be filed for a 60-day public comment period. That public comment period closed on May 9<sup>th</sup> and the Office took time to review over 100 comments from various stakeholders. After consideration of the comments, the Office determined that revisions to the proposed regulations were needed. So, the first key revision includes a streamlining of the patient registration process. The streamlining would allow for an auto registration, and as a critical revision that will help expedite access to medical cannabis for certified patients. Patients will no longer be required to separately file a registration with the Office after receiving their certification from a practitioner. The patient could take that certification and go to a dispensing site which is more in line with how pharmacy works with normal prescriptions. We believe that this will have a very positive impact on the program and will save time for patients and the Office in processing registrations. Another revision was to modify the packaging, labeling, marketing, and advertising requirements so that we can more closely align with Adult Use packaging labeling and advertising proposed regulations. The proposed regulations also removed prior written approval requirements for medical cannabis products. And finally, after considering public comments in support of having in person pharmacist supervision, the remote supervision by pharmacists was removed. If the Cannabis Control Board votes to file the revised regulations today, this will trigger a new 45-day public comment period. This comment period would begin on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, when the first opportunity for the regulations to appear in the state registry. Thank you for the opportunity to highlight these key changes, and I would be happy to answer any questions if any Board members have them.

Tremaine Wright: Thank you. Before we open it up to questions to the Board, I am going to ask if member Metzger will speak to some of the Energy Environmental additions that have been made to these regulations as well?

Jen Metzger: Thank you, Madam Chair. And I'm sorry I'm not there with you in person in Buffalo today but look forward to joining colleagues on our farm tour tomorrow. So, when New York's medical cannabis program was created under the Compassionate Care Act signed into law back in July 2014, the climate and environmental impact of the industry wasn't really on anyone's radar. But a lot has changed since then. In 2019, New York passed the most forward looking climate legislation in the country requiring that we reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions below 1990 levels by 40% by 2030, that's just 8 years from now, and by 85% by 2050. And it requires that we do so equitably, prioritizing those communities that have been historically disadvantaged and have suffered disproportionately from environmental harms. The Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act reflects the climate law that was passed recognizing that we have to minimize the climate and environmental impacts and, of course, really centers equity. The Board has given the authority under the MRTA to promulgate environmental and energy regulations for the industry, and we're also directed to consider energy and environmental impact

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in the evaluation of licensed applications. So, why is this important for the cannabis industry? As states have legalized cannabis, and legal production has increased, there is now research and data showing that cannabis, though green has a footprint that has not been green in many places. Next door in Massachusetts, cannabis product has been estimated to account for about 10% of the state's industrial electricity consumption. In Denver, Colorado, the industry accounts for fully 4% of the city's greenhouse gas emissions. It doesn't have to be this way and states are increasingly improving policies and regulations to reduce the impact. We recognize in New York that business as usual does not suffice in the face of an existential climate threat. And as with other aspects of cannabis policy, we are learning from the experiences of other states and are committed to forging a more sustainable path. The provisions in these regulations are the beginning not the end. we are working on more comprehensive set of regulations and programs, but we are making a start in these regulations by including a requirement for annual benchmarking of energy and water usage so that we can track consumption over time and document improvements. The regulations also include standards for lighting and dehumidification systems. Additionally, as Nicole mentioned, the packaging standards that have been released for public comment in the Adult Use Program, those standards include environmental standards and a sustainability program requirement, and those are mirrored in these proposed regulations. And finally, these regulations set standards for the disposal of plant waste, discouraging the landfilling of large quantities of organic waste which is the major source of climate damaging methane emissions. That waste can be put to more productive uses such as compost that improves and can be used as a soil amendment to improve soil health, or as an input into making other products and creating a more circular economy. As I mentioned, we are in the process of developing industry wide regulations. In the meantime, additional guidance will be issued by the office for RO's to provide clarity on what would be required for any medical expansion. And just as an aside, in my view, I think it's really important for the medical cannabis industry which, under the law, has to grow indoors, to move in the direction of mixed light or greenhouse grow to integrate in new facilities, if they expand, to integrate natural light in cultivation. Some RO's are already doing this. It is a plant after all and does not need to rely on powerful artificial lighting along, 12 hours a day 365 days a year when the sun is freely available. And integrating natural light will greatly reduce both electricity usage and costs, and it's also better for the health of employees. So, that's my comments. Thank you, Madam Chair, I would like to turn it back over to you.

Tremaine Wright: Thank you. Are there any additional, is there any discussion, comments or questions from the Board related to the Regs? Okay, hearing none, I am going to call for the vote. Ms. Metzger?

Jen Metzger: Aye.

Tremaine Wright: Miss Garcia?

Jessica Garcia: Aye.

Tremaine Wright: Mr. McDaniel?

Reuben McDaniel: Aye.

Tremaine Wright: Mr. Perry?

Adam Perry: Aye.

Tremaine Wright: And I vote in favor as well. Therefore, the motion to approve resolution No. 2022-23 directing the Office of Cannabis Management to file certain revised proposed medical cannabis regulations carries. This is a wonderful list. And now, we are going to continue to move forward the agenda and I would like to ask our Executive Director, Chris Alexander to please present the Executive Director's report please.

Chris Alexander: Thank you, Madam Chair and thank you Board members for continuing the important work of advancing the Seeding Opportunity Initiative. As mentioned earlier, we've been continuing our Get Ready Get Set workshops to prepare eligible New Yorkers for the Conditional Adult Use Retail Dispensary license opportunity and advancing the Seeding Opportunity Initiative. We are focusing on engaging individuals with cannabis convictions, community-based organizations, business groups, and really folks who are on the ground and able to pull in others that may be able to benefit from this program. We started with virtual workshops and listening sessions and have now taken the program on the road. We had a great discussion and event here in Buffalo last night, and really honestly continue to engage with community members at that level. With the Boards approval, the Conditional Adult Use Retail Dispensary application today, we will now step these workshops up a notch to help make sure applicants are not only aware of the opportunity, but also that they know the specific documentation that they should start gathering now so that they are ready when the application opens later this summer. We already have events scheduled in Brooklyn, Buffalo, Schoharie County, Ulster County, Manhattan, Queens, and Harlem. We are looking to add more to that list to make sure that folks have all the information that they need to prepare. On an additional note, as part of the Seeding Opportunity Initiative, immediately following this meeting, we are going to take off for a 2-day tour of some of our Adult Use Conditional Cultivator Farms starting with the farm right here in Erie County. Our newest farmers have been hard at work getting their crop ready and with the application for the dispensaries approved today, it's a great opportunity to go see the plants that are already in the ground and growing the product that these dispensaries will sell when they open later this year. We will be sharing our adventure with the public too and provide a window into how we are advancing the initiative and getting your industry started with the small farmers. And so, with that I would like to make sure that we are directing members of the public to tap into with us on social media at nys.\_cannabis on twitter and Instagram so you can see our journey today. I would also like to provide a quick update on the Cannabis Advisory Board. Since the last Control Board meeting, the Cannabis Advisory Board held its first meeting on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Having the Advisory Board online is a terrific step forward in the development of the Office and the implementation of the MRTA. This secondary board is a real opportunity to bring a wide swath of perspectives to the table and to help inform the process of building and regulating the most equity and inclusive industry in the nation. Under the MRTA, the Advisory Board's voting members must have statewide geographic representation and includes individuals with expertise in public and behavior health, substance use disorder treatment, effective

rehabilitative treatment for adults and juveniles, homelessness and house, economic development, environmental conservation, job training and placement, criminal justice, and drug policy. The MRTA does mix the primary purpose of that Board with overseeing disbursements of New York State Community Grants Reinvestment Fund. That fund is supported by 40% of industry revenues with another 40% bolstering the State's Public Education System and the remaining 20 going to support drug treatment and prevention programs across the states. Grants from that fund will be distributed to help revitalize communities across the state that are most impacted by prohibition, and they will be delivered to nonprofits, community-based organizations who are working to support job training, continuing adult education, economic development projects, and other investments to renew and rejuvenate communities. So, we are really excited that that Board is up and running, and I will continue to use my Executive Director reports to provide an update on their updates as well to the Control Board.

Additionally, under the MRTA, that Board advises on proposed regulations. To effectuate that consultation, we look forward to engaging with them in the process. However, the sole body charged with the approval of regulations remains the Cannabis Control Board, so that engagement will occurring during the public comment period. We look forward to our next Advisory Board meeting that will be scheduled later this summer. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Tremaine Wright: Thank you, Chris. Are there any questions from the Board, comments? So then, as we prepare to close, I want to note that the time and location and the live stream link will be shared on Cannabis.ny.gov in advance of the next Cannabis Control Board meeting and a recording of today's meeting, meeting minutes, and a transcription will be posted as well. That concludes today's agenda items. So, may I please have a motion to adjourn this meeting?

Jessica Garcia: So moved.

Reuben McDaniel: Second.

Tremaine Wright: Thank you. It has been moved and properly seconded. If there is no discussion, all in favor?

All: Aye.

Tremaine Wright: And so, this meeting is official adjourned.